ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method for the detection of inflammation in animals using infrared thermography. The invention also provides a method for the

5   diagnosis of infections, diseases or disorders that induce inflammation using infrared thermography. The present invention is based on the surprising discovery that temperature differences less than 1 °C are clinically significant. This discovery was made possible by employing an induction model of mastitis, which allowed the Applicants to evaluate inflammation resulting from a known etiology and to compare the infrared patterns obtained

10   using an infrared camera with outcomes obtained with other diagnostic procedures. Accordingly, Applicants discovered that temperature differences less than 1 °C indicate early or subclinical inflammation, and that temperature differences greater than 1 °C indicate later stages of development of inflammation.

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